

WASATCH COUNTY—Heber

The Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers was organized in Heber City on May 27, 1920. From that day forward the members of this organization have worked faithfully to establish a relic room. The first room for display of relics was located on the second floor of the old tithing office. This building stood on the east side of Heber City's Main Street at First North. When this building was sold, the DUP organization was given a room in the seminary building by Stake President J. R. Murdock, who was especially interested in their work and in the preservation of the history and relics of early pioneers. The relics, originally placed in the southeast upstairs room of the seminary building, were later shifted to a northeast room. Here they remained until 1978, when it was decided to tear the building down to make a city park.

In 1978, the county DUP obtained a long-term lease on a building known as the Heber Social Hall. This building had been constructed in 1906-07 to meet the growing needs of auxiliary organizations of the Heber City wards. Built of red sandstone from the quarries east of the city, each stone was hand-chiseled and squared, and each layer in the building had to be of the same thickness. Most of the work was done by volunteer labor.

The huge floor was built with more than four hundred coil springs under the floor, and each piece of flooring had to be carefully placed. While the floor was being constructed, the work continued day and night. The women helped by providing delicious meals to the workers. Through the years, the hall has

proven to be a meeting place for many social and cultural events in Wasatch County.

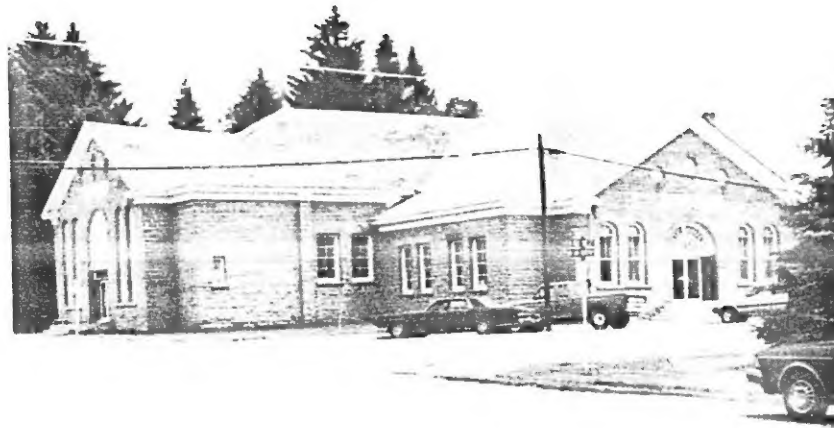
In the spring of 1965, it was decided to demolish the Social Hall and the old stake tabernacle to build a new stake center, but there was so much opposition to destroying these buildings that another site was selected for the new stake center.

The county gave the Wasatch Senior Citizens a twenty-five-year lease on the Social Hall in 1978, and at that time an agreement was consummated between the senior citizens and the DUP to provide the balcony in the north end of the building for a permanent home for the DUP relics. Over five thousand dollars was spent by the Daughters in renovating the balcony, paneling the walls and carpeting the floor.

In 1981, under the direction of President Fae V. Jiacoletti, First Vice President Nellie N. Taylor, Second Vice President Lois Fox, Secretary-Treasurer Elna Hector and other county officers and camp members, the job of organizing the relic room began. Moldings were installed and pictures were hung on brass hangers to cover the north wall of the room. The south portion was divided into three sections, one for kitchen artifacts, one for living room articles, and one for miscellaneous items. As a security measure, wrought iron gates were installed at the end of both stairways leading up to the relic room.

The relic room was completed and ready to display for County Fair Days, August 1981. This museum is located at 90 North 100 West, Heber City, Utah.

—Fae V. Jiacoletti



Heber Amusement Hall remodeled about 1940, with annex added. It is now known as the Senior Citizen Center.

Planning for Building a Chapel

As the Heber Second Ward grew, the bishopric realized the need for a new chapel. *The Wasatch Wave* reported that, "The Ward had the opportunity to purchase the site, west of the Wave office, on the corner of Center and First West." (*Wasatch Wave*, November 11, 1911).

When the Center Creek Ward purchased the abandoned building on the site which belonged to a Methodist church and moved it to their community, Bishop Rasband called a group of men, in the fall of 1913, to take their teams into Strawberry Valley and obtain lumber for the building project.

It was late in the fall when they got started, and they worked waist-deep in the snow, at times, but stayed on the job until they had enough lumber to build forms for the foundation of the building.

The ground was surveyed and machinery started work on April 4, 1913. Actual work began March 16, 1914.

The following information, about the building of the chapel, was reported in *The Wasatch Wave*:

*2nd Ward
Book
Feb 1988*

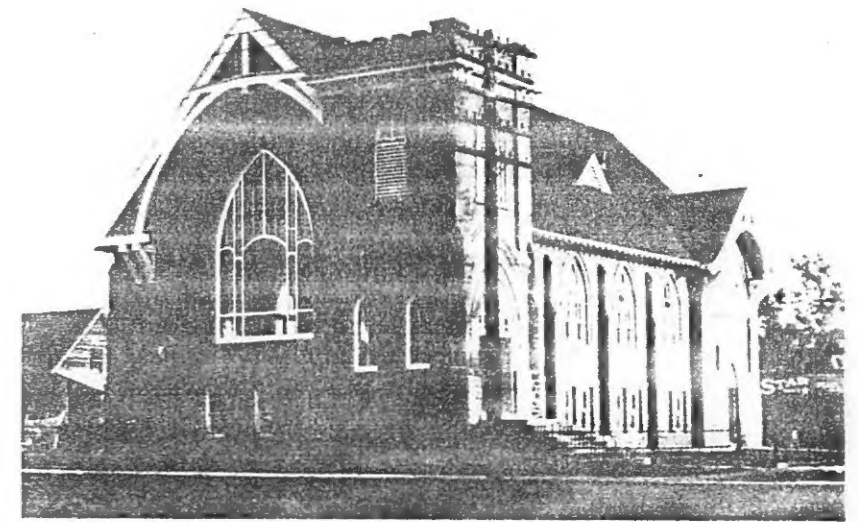
1. "Work on the Second Ward meeting house has begun and it is the intention of those in charge to push the building toward completion as soon as possible." (March 20, 1914).

2. "Bishop Rasband reports that the building will be completed and paid for this week. The building is a credit to the Ward and a material addition to Center Street. A few more substantial building on this street would add very greatly to the good appearance of our town." (September 11, 1914).

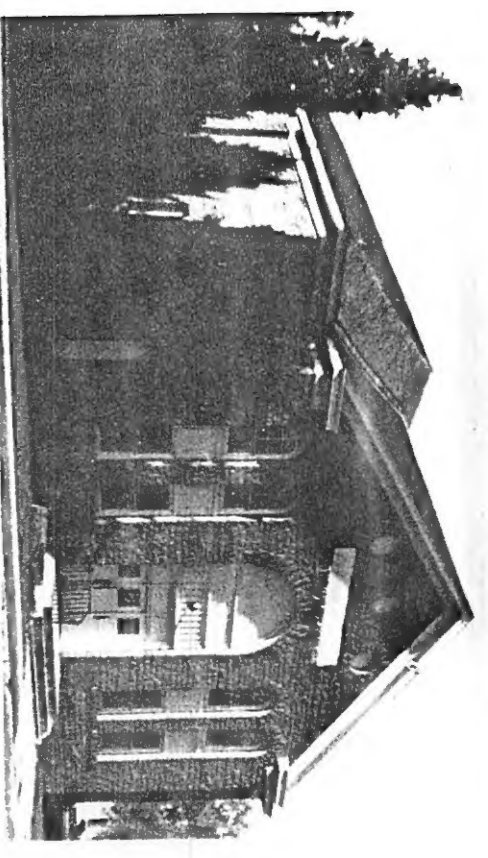
3. "The brick work on the new meeting house of Heber Second Ward will be completed this week and the roof will assume position immediately thereafter." (September 19, 1914).

By December of 1915, the building was ready for dedication. It was built to seat 400 people and on the day of the dedication, 390 individuals were in attendance to hear Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of Twelve offer the dedicatory prayer.

In his financial report, Bishop Rasband noted that the entire cost of the building, with furnishings, was \$19,415.74. For its time, it was considered the finest church building in the Wasatch Stake. Because of its central location, the Heber Second Ward building has been a favorite gathering place for community and civic functions.



Heber Second Ward Chapel, dedicated December 26, 1915, located on the corner of Center and First West.



Heber Amusement Hall built in 1906-1907 by the three Heber Wards, located at First West and First North.

One of the first cooperative projects of the three new wards was the construction of the Heber Amusement Hall in 1906-1907. The building was badly needed to meet the growing demands of the auxiliary organizations within the three wards.

Historical Note:

"The building, known as the Heber Social Hall, was later remodeled to include an annex and kitchen facilities. Today, it is owned, maintained, and utilized by Wasatch County as a Senior Citizens Center."

When the building was started in 1906, the men turned out in full force to help on the project. The women were also present to serve them a delicious meal at the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. The huge oak dance floor was carefully planned with more than 400 coil springs under the floor. It is still considered one of the best dance floors in the state of Utah. Over the years it has been a center for social and cultural events for the community as well as the church functions.

*2nd Ward Book
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